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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/516,670	03/01/2000	Kenichi Seino	9281-3582	3796

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EXAMINER

YE, LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/516,670

Applicant(s)

SEINO ET AL.

Examiner

Lin Ye

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Referring to claim 1, the claim discloses a limitation “ a **contour-adjusting circuit** for performing contour adjustment by peaking R,G,B... **or** by peaking only a Y signal...” . It would only request either one of condition of peaking R,G,B or peaking Y signal to meet this claimed limitation. However, the claim also discloses another limitation “ a **selecting circuit** for selecting in accordance with **the type of input video signals....**” . It would request to have at least two types of input video signals such signal (R,G, B) or signal (Y, Pr, Pb) for selecting. Those two limitations conflict with each other.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanagata U.S. Patent 5,953,058 in view of Sugiyama et al. U.S. Patent 6,262,779 and Tanji et al. U.S. Patent 5,767,900.

Referring to claim 1, the Hanagata reference discloses in Figure 2 A, a video signal processing circuit comprising: a contour-adjusting (edge-adjusting) circuit (constant

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generating circuit 4) by peaking only a Y signal among transmission color signals in a high definition television system (input signals of the HDTV are the Y, Cr and Cb) and for outputting at least one adjusted signal (e.g. adjusted signal is for avoiding spurious color singles in the edge, See Col. 4, lines 65-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-15); and the Pr (Cr) signal and the Pb (Cb) signal, in which the contour adjustment is not performed; an inverse matrix transforming circuit (primary color generation circuit 21 and a constant multiplying circuit 5) for separating by performing inverse matrix transformation, the R, G, and B signals from the adjusted Y Signal, a Pr (Cr) signal, and a Pb (Cb) signal among the transmission color signals and for outputting the separated R, G, and B signals (See, Col. 5, lines 37-42). However, the reference does not explicitly disclose a selecting circuit for selecting with the type of input video signals such as NTSC/PAL or HDTV video signals.

The Sugiyama reference discloses in Figure 1, a video signal processing apparatus including a NTSC signal input terminal (1), a HDTV signal input terminal (2), a PC signal input terminal (3), and a selecting circuit (switch 4) for selecting the type of input video signals inputted into the input terminals 1,2 and 3. The Sugiyama reference is evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages for a video signal processing system is not limited by the type of input video signals so that has more flexibility to process video signals in low cost and power consuming. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the video signal processing circuit has the selecting circuit for selecting with the type of input video signals such as NTSC/PAL or HDTV video signals for performing the contour adjustment disclosed by Hanagata.

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The Hanagata and Sugiyama references do not explicitly show the contour adjustment is performed on the input R, G, B video signals when the NTSC/PAL system is selected.

The Tanji reference discloses in Figures 1-2, a video signal process apparatus comprising a contour-adjusting circuit (contour enhancement circuit 16) for performing contour adjustment by peaking R, G, and B signals among video signals in an NTSV/PAL system (See Col. 4, lines 4-8 and lines 48-55). The Tanji reference is evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages for a video signal processing system performing contour adjustment by peaking R, G, and B signals for suppressing a blurred contours and increasing image quality. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the video signal processing circuit can perform contour adjustment in the R, G, and B signals disclosed by Hanagata.

Referring to claims 2-4, a viewfinder apparatus for a television camera (video camera disclosed in Hanagata reference) comprising a display device (CRT 11 disclosed in Sugiyama reference, Figure 1) using a video signal processing circuit (luminance signal processing circuit 10 and chroma signal processing circuit 20) as set forth in claim 1.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Lin U.S 6,628,330 discloses a digital camera processor for performing edge enhancer on red-green-blue (R, G, B) or luminance-chrominance (YUV).

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- b. Suzuki et al. U.S 6, 433, 836 discloses a contour emphasizing circuit performs contour emphasis on the digital R, G and B signals.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lin Ye** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3250**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


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Lin Ye

October 31, 2003


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600